

Collie Rescue of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

August 2025



Collie Rescue of
Southeastern Pennsylvania
PO Box 493
Ambler, PA 19002

215-793-9298
Collierescueofsepa.org

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A Trio of Collies

By: Heidi Krueger

In June 2024, Collie Rescue of SEPA received a message from a breeder: “Hello I have a couple of collies I’d like to get rid of. Are you taking dogs?” After some discussion, I learned that there were three dogs, two had been bred by him but returned after a year, and the third had come from a different breeder, but all needed homes. Ultimately, a fourth was added to the mix, also from a different breeder. Of course we said we would do whatever we could to help him find them good homes. They were technically outside of our coverage area, and at the time we had no available adopters or foster homes. The breeder was willing to work with us even if it meant waiting for a few months.

We originally received photos of 3 of the dogs showing nicely groomed Collies, with fur flowing in the breeze in a field in a beautiful setting. A week later, I conducted a first visit to assess the dogs to determine what types of homes would be suitable for each one. I found a large, immaculate Amish farm tucked away in the mountains that easily could have been used to create a postcard advertising rural Pennsylvania. Then I was introduced to the four dogs who were living in a goat pasture, sharing a shelter with the goats. Two white Collies with sable markings were so dirty their white blended in with their sable and I really couldn’t tell whether they had any discernable patterns at all. The two others were both mahogany sable and white, and except for the fact that their coats were already dark, might



Juniper when we first met

have looked just as bad. They did at least have clean water and lots of available food. It was obvious that the two sable and white dogs had lived with a family for at least some time. They were personable and wanted to meet the stranger who had come to visit them. The two white dogs were clearly wary of the stranger, and would approach to investigate while carefully staying just out of reach. Ultimately, after waiting patiently for some time, and leveraging every dog calming signal in the book, I was able to interact with the two white dogs as well.

While none of the dogs was overweight, one, Leaf, was concerningly thin, and I observed that the other white dog, Tide, was being a bit of a bully to him. Tide was also noticeably more filled out than Leaf. The irony of their names did not escape me. We had “Leaf” who was wilting like a bruised leaf whenever Tide approached, and we had “Tide” who so desperately needed a bath and would have benefited from some Tide detergent. I asked whether Leaf was being chased away from the shared food bin by Tide, and indicated that he was too thin and needed more food. The breeder thought that

perhaps he could give Leaf his own area with his own food.

The other two were named Juniper and Cody.

We immediately began looking for the right homes for these beautiful dogs, making Leaf our #1 priority. I won't pretend that it was easy to just drive off and leave them there that day, but we had absolutely no pending applications, and no fosters ready to take in any dogs. So, despite the situation that they were living in, we would be powerless to help them unless and until we could find adopters for each one of them. I promised each one of the dogs that I would be back for them. Then, I stayed in regular contact with the breeder, also encouraging him to provide them with what each one needed to truly thrive while they were with him. Ultimately, he found a new home for Cody, and we continued working to find homes for Leaf, Tide, and Juniper.



Leaf, when we first met

In August, a wonderful couple reached out to us interested in Leaf. After completing an initial interview and home check, it was clear that they would likely be a good fit. They were experienced collie people and already had collies of their own who could help Leaf learn to live with a family. We knew that Leaf would do well with and might feel more secure with other collies of the right temperament. The meet and greet went well and Leaf was officially adopted at the end of August.

Finally, by October, two families had been found who would be able to meet the needs of Juniper and Tide. Tide needed someone with collie experience, but also needed to be an only dog. Juniper, we knew would



Tide, when we first met

do well with the right doggy sibling, and would enjoy being part of a full family with children. Both Tide and Juniper were adopted on the same day to two different families. By the time a family had been found for Tide, he had lost weight and was almost as thin as Leaf had been when we first met.

All three of the adoptive families traveled for at least 2 hours one-way to complete the adoption, and I had added almost 1000 miles to my car working to arrange the homes for these beautiful dogs. But everyone involved knew that these dogs were worth the extra work. This is, after all, why we do what we do.

To celebrate their new lives, Leaf and Tide were given new names, and are now known as Wolfie, and Tyree (Ty) respectively. Juniper kept her name and has grown into her new life like a beautiful Juniper tree.

As I write this, it has been almost a full year for each one of them, and we receive regular updates on their status. These are excerpts from their families most recent reports:

Ty is making incredible progress. He now almost completely exhibits the more traditional behaviors of a loving and loyal collie. In the beginning he was afraid to be in the same room when both of his people were there. Now he searches out those times. He's become a real moocher, whether it's planting himself almost underfoot during food preparation in the kitchen or giving his soulful stare in order to snatch a piece of pizza crust in the TV room. Earlier on he would scamper when someone had to walk past him if he was lying down. Now they have to step around or over him, even if their hands are full of something like a wash basket, and his people wouldn't have it any other way. When he's out he surveys and surveys until he's convinced the coast is clear and everything is in its "proper assigned" place. While he's completely at home anywhere on the first floor he has not conquered the stairs as of yet.

Initially if his people would walk up the stairs he would run away. Now he'll stand at the bottom and look up. He's made it up to the fourth step (loves a tiny bit of heavily smoked bologna). but then rather than coming down with any "dignity" he just leaps, so they are taking it very slowly to avoid injury to the 80-lb dog who may not know that he can't actually fly.

Keep taking those big steps Ty! We are so proud of the heights that you have reached so far!



"Tyree" (f.k.a Tide) today

In February of this year, Wolfie had a seizure. Ultimately, after a few more seizures and some tests, he was diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy and put on medication to control his seizures. It is unfortunate that collies are overrepresented as a breed in idiopathic epilepsy, but fortunately, for the vast majority of dogs with epilepsy, it does not have to be a death sentence. They can live long happy lives with seizures few and far between on the right balance of medication. Wolfie is proving to be no exception to that rule.

After almost a year, he is doing wonderfully! He loves sleeping on the couch and in the bed at night. He has learned to play zoomies with the other dogs. The cat loves to play chase with him. She will trade him and then take off and he goes flying after her. He is really starting to warm up to other people. He is very comfortable around women, but he was very skittish around men, and when someone new came into the house, he would go to his bed and hide. Now he just jumps up onto the couch and watches the people. He has recently started cuddling with his people on the couch. When he wants to be petted, he comes over and paws at his people (they are teaching him to use his nose for that). He has a favorite toy, a stuffed monkey that he likes to carry around, but will also share. He even takes his monkey to bed with him. Wolfie

LOVES baths and is offering lessons to any other dog who needs help understanding why baths can be so wonderful.

Sign us up Wolfie! We are so happy to see you enjoying friends and family and life in general!



"Wolfie" (f.k.a Leaf) today

Juniper's family has told us many times how happy they are that she has joined their family. She is doing so well and has really settled into family life. Besides lounging on the couch or in her dog bed, she loves to be outside with the kids. In true collie fashion, she enjoys following them around while they play. She also really loves to sit in the shade in the bed of pachysandra as well.

Juniper, we are so happy that you have found a place where you can play and feel safe enough to lounge in the shade on those hot summer days.



Juniper today

You can find a full color version of this newsletter on our website to see just how much each of these special dogs has changed.

Do you want to help Collie Rescue of SEPA?

Adopt!

JJ needs a Forever Home!



JJ is an affectionate and energetic 8-month-old Smooth Collie who is ready to find his forever family. At about 40 lbs, he thinks he's a lap dog, and his sweet snuggles make it hard to disagree.

JJ is a happy, playful pup with a high energy level who loves daily walks and outdoor playtime, especially if there's a hose and water involved! He loves engaging toys & anything that squeaks! He is eager to please and already has an excellent training foundation. JJ is potty trained, crate trained, and leash trained. He knows several commands including sit, down, and leave it, and he's eager to keep learning more. JJ gets along well with people and is still learning how to play politely with other dogs. He would thrive as the only dog in the home or with another playful, younger dog who matches his energy.



With his loving personality, enthusiasm for life, and willingness to learn, JJ will be a wonderful companion for an active family who can give him the exercise, training, and affection he deserves. JJ would appreciate a physically fenced yard where he can run off his puppy energy, but we think he could do well with the right person/people willing to make a commitment to him for daily walks and on-leash exercise.

Think you have what our pocket-sized Collie JJ needs? Download and submit an application today! Have questions about the application? Reach out to us for help. We promise we won't bite.

Foster!

Too often we find ourselves unable to help dogs in immediate need like Leaf, Tide, and Juniper because we don't have available foster homes

Do you want to help collies in need but have periodic obligations that would make it impossible to care for a dog 365-days of every year? Would you have the ability to care for a dog for a few weeks or months while we worked to find the right forever home? If you have current pets, do they all agree that helping another pet in need is a good idea? Perhaps fostering on behalf of Collie Rescue of SEPA is right for you.

Download and submit an application today! Reach out to us if you have questions. We cover all costs associated with caring for a foster dog. Are you worried that you will love them too much and not be able to part with them? We allow fosters to adopt!

Download Applications Here:

<https://collierescueofsepa.info/support-collie-rescue/>

Volunteer

Do you have time to give to help Collie Rescue of SEPA?

People are needed to help board members staff tables at rescue events.

People are needed to help to transport dogs.

Do you have other talents and skills that you are willing to apply to help the rescue in its mission?

We are still in search of 2-3 additional board members. Would you be willing to donate a few hours each month to help from an administrative perspective to facilitate the behind-the-screens operations of the rescue?

Reach out to us if any of these seem like they might be a good fit for you, or if you aren't sure and have questions.

Donate to Help with Expenses

Donate online through PayPal - see QR code on front page or

Mail a check to:

Collie Rescue of SEPA, PO Box 493, Ambler, PA 19002

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Join us at an upcoming event

Saturday, October 4, 2025

27th Annual "Paws 4 Life" Dog Walk

Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia (CSCGP) at Gilda's Club.

Registration begins at Warminster Community Park located at 1100 Veterans Way at 8:45 AM at the Hallowell Pavilion #1. There will be music and demos.

The walk begins at 9:30 AM

Enjoy a leisurely 1 mile walk through the park which ends at Gilda's Clubhouse next door. Here there will be giveaways, vendors, music, food, demonstration rings, games, raffles and dog contests with celebrity judges.

Cost is only \$30 per leash so the entire family can join in the fun!

This event benefits The Cancer Support Community of Greater Philadelphia at Gilda's Club.





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Look inside for updates on



Leaf



Cody



Tide